Claim Amendments—Discussion

Application Number 10/605,157
Inventor: Howard Gutowitz
Examiner: Tanh Q. Nguyen
Art Unit: 2182
Response to Office Action mailed Nov. 2, 2006

The claims have been amended to address the formalities described in Examiner's points 3-11.In particular, the recitation of "optionality" has been removed and the continuation/non-continuation descriptors replaced by first/second descriptors. The first class of trigger sequences has been further clarified. These clarifications find support e.g in Fig. 13 and the discussion related thereto. Referring to Fig 13, we note that at 1384, the tone mark is displayed, but it has not been entered, and conversion has not occurred. At the next keystroke (a keystroke on key 3), the tone mark is input, and as shown in 1386, conversion of the input sequence ti2 has occurred, and an additional symbol, d is displayed, but not entered, and not converted.

Turning to the Examiner's substantive objections, in the Examiner's point 14, in reference to claim 1, we see that the claim 1 is distinguished from Ouyang. Informally, a trigger sequence in the first class of trigger sequences described in claim 1 has a last keystroke which both terminates the trigger sequence, and begins further text entry. There is no comparable keystroke in Ouyang.

The example provided by the Examiner illustrates. In this example, "where each of said subsequent keystrokes [i.e. the second keystroke] additionally causes display of a further printable symbol [1 in 946641 causes display of g h i-*upon entering a 4 following 946641*" (OA at 7, emphasis added). However the keystroke 1, which causes conversion, does not display any pre-conversion symbol or non-conversion symbol. Upon keystroke

1, a Hanzi is displayed, which is a post-conversion symbol. This keystroke therefore could not be the last keystroke which "displays a last said further said printable symbol, said last said further printable symbol characterized as displayed and not converted when said last said immediately previously displayed said printable symbol is converted." If keystroke 1 did display a pre-conversion or non-conversion symbol, then conversion would not take place upon that keystroke, according to Ouyang. Similarly, Ouyang's next keystroke, keystroke 4 which is immediately subsequent to keystroke 1, could not be the last keystroke, since it does not generate a last said symbol-input-end symbol applying to a last said immediately previously displayed said printable symbol causing it to be input, since the immediately previously displayed printable symbol is a post-conversion Hanzi, not a pre-conversion symbol or a non-conversion symbol, and which Hanzi has already been input before keystroke 4. The input of the Hanzi does not depend in any way on the keystroke 4. Under Ouyang, if there were no keystroke 4, the Hanzi would be equally input.

Thus Claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Ouyang, and notice to that effect is requested. It is further respectfully requested that claims withdrawn pending allowance of claim 1 now be examined.

In reference to the Examiner's point 15), regarding claims 7-11, 14, 18-19: The Examiner states, "Ouyang teaches a third mechanism to convert said pre-conversion symbols to said post-conversion symbols [600, Fig1], the third mechanism is physically remote from said first mechanism [600, is physically remote from 200, 400, Fig 1]." While Ouyang makes no mention of how far part 600 is from parts 200,400, he refers to these elements as "portions" in Fig. 1, indicating that they are to be considered part and portion of the same machine. The present disclosure, by contrast, makes reference to client-server architectures, [e.g. para. 144, Fig. 26], where it is well understood that the client and server are typically different machines, and thus physically remote. The

applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's suggestion that Ouyang anticipates claim 8. This claim, as well as claim 7 on which it depends, is allowable since it depends from claim 1, which is allowable, as well as for pointing out additional features and advantages of the invention. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 10 are allowable since they depend from claim 1 which is allowable, and serve as well to point out additional features and advantages of the invention. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested

Claims 11, 12, and 14 concern the use of Next keys. The Examiner proposes that in Ouyang, keystroke 1 in the sequence 946641 advances the display of symbols. This rejection is respectfully traversed, since keystroke 1 serves to input and select, but does not "advance". To make the distinction between Ouyang and the present invention clearer, claims 11, 12 and 14 have been amended to limit to keystrokes which do not generate a symbol-input-end symbol. There is no comparable keystroke in Ouyang. This amendment is supported, e.g. Fig. 13, and the discussion related thereto. The applicant believes that claims 11, 12, and 14 are now in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 19 are allowable since they depend from claim 1 which is allowable, and serve as well to point out additional features and advantages of the invention. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested

Examiner's point 16 concerns claim 16. Ouyang's text entry system was not created by the method of claim 16 as amended since Ouyang produces certain post-conversion symbols only by means of keystrokes on a convert key, that is, a key such that a keystroke on that key causes conversion of some symbols, but does not at the same time display a further pre-conversion or non-conversion symbol. Applicant believes that this claim is now in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.
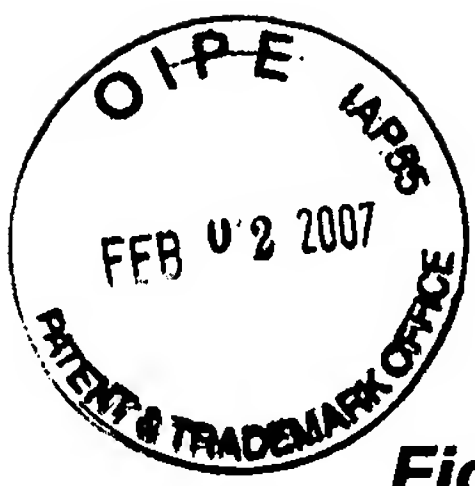
Figure Cancellation

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In point number 2 of the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner required cancellation of amendments proposed on April 26, 2006 to Fig. 1. These proposed amendments are hereby cancelled.